

responders arrived at the scene, so did Deputy Sheriff Steve Davis. Once a Media Information Center was established, Deputy Davis and PIO Team members provided updates and information to media representatives as often as necessary to keep his community, our nation, and the world informed.

"Public Information Officers like Davis and Hansen have set new standards for levels of cooperation between the media and public safety providers," said co-chair David Handschuh, staff photographer with the New York Daily News. "The ultimate benefactor of this cooperation is the public, who stays updated and informed in times of crisis."

National Press Photographers Association President Linda Angelle said, "Media, police and fire personnel work in jobs that require them to deal with both traumatic and tragic situations. Davis and Hansen have been recognized for outstanding work in exceptional circumstances and will be presented the Cooke PIO Award of Excellence at our National Convention in Denver July 2, 1999."

Media representatives and Public Information Officers serve a vital role in keeping our communities and the nation informed in times of crisis. I hope that Congress and State Legislatures continue to work together to keep that free flow of information open to the public through media representatives.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
ETHEREDGE COLONEL M.B.

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a wonderful patriot and fellow Texan, Colonel M.B. Etheredge, who after more than 80 years of dedicated service to his community, to the State of Texas and to this entire Nation, will be honored by his friends and family members at the Family Faith Church in Huntsville, TX, on Sunday, July 4, 1999.

Born in Weldon, TX, Mr. Etheredge graduated from Huntsville High School in 1933. Four years later, he received a bachelor of Arts Degree from Sam Houston Teacher's College, where he was an active member of the Student Council, Captain of the Track Team and President of his Senior Class.

Following graduation from Sam Houston, he taught in Sugar Land from 1937 to 1941 and then went on to serve as Brazoria County's Superintendent of Schools. In the summer of 1942, Mr. Etheredge enlisted in the United States Army and spent the next four years in Africa, Italy and France. Amazingly, but not surprising to those who knew him, he earned two battlefield promotions and was advanced in rank from second lieutenant to captain in only 6 days. For his dedication and commitment, he has been awarded three Silver Star medals for gallantry in action, two Bronze Star medals for heroism and two Purple Heart medals, making him one of the most decorated heroes of World War II. He was mustered out of the Army with the highest effi-

ciency index of any officer in the Fourth Army Area and now carries the high honor of colonel (Retired) of the United States Army.

After world War II, Mr. Etheredge completed his Master of Arts Degree at Sam Houston Teachers College in 1947. He received a Peabody Scholarship and did postgraduate work at the University of Texas in Austin. Lieutenant Colonel Etheredge was elected to three terms in the Texas House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the Education Committee. He also served two terms as a board member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, is a past President of the Huntsville Rotary Club, taught at Sam Houston State University as a Associate Professor of Education, and chartered the American Bank of Huntsville and the Lake Area Bank of Trinity, where he served as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Etheredge has made a positive impact on the lives of many Americans and personifies the definition of a true and loyal American who sets the standard for all citizens to live by. He is an outstanding example to his family and friends, and has been an asset to the many communities, states and nations that he has touched over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude and the utmost respect that I rise today to ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the selfless service of Colonel M.B. Etheredge and in saluting the honor and dedication of all American servicemen and women on July 4th, the birthday of our Nation.

HONORING CAPTAIN JUAN TUDELA
SALAS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to commend a man who has dedicated over three decades of faithful service to the United States Coast Guard. Captain Juan Tudela Salas, the first Chamorro selected to attend and graduate from the United States Coast Guard Academy, is slated to retire at the end of this month.

For over thirty years, Captain Salas distinguished himself as one of Guam's top military service members. Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree in General Naval Engineering from the Academy in 1968, he was awarded a Coast Guard scholarship that enabled him to earn a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the George Washington University.

In his three decades with the United States Coast Guard, Captain Salas amassed an extensive seagoing record. In addition, he demonstrated expertise in the field of recruiting and marketing. He was assigned to the USCGC *Basswood* from 1972 to 1974. Prior to being appointed Chief of the Military Recruiting Branch of the Twelfth Coast Guard District in San Francisco, Captain Salas served on the USCGC *Red Birch* from 1970 until 1972. In 1974, he was once again assigned to sea duty with the USCGC *Resolute*. From the *Resolute*, he moved on to Washington, D.C., in 1976, to serve as Chief of the

Minority Recruiting Branch at the Coast Guard Headquarters. In 1981, he was out at sea once again with the USCGC *Ute*.

From 1983 until 1986, Captain Salas served as the Officer in Charge of the Interdiction Operations Intelligence Center for the Vice President's National Narcotics Border Interdiction system in Miami, Florida. In 1986, he assumed command of the USCGC *Lipan*. While commanding the *Lipan*, he successfully directed the interdiction of four vessels and the seizure of a total of over 20,000 lbs. of marijuana and 5,500 lbs. of cocaine.

Captain Salas was back to recruiting in 1989. He served his last assignment in this field as chief of Recruiting and Job entry Division at coast guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. As chief, he was responsible for the nation's Coast Guard recruiting programs, directing a nationwide force of 280 recruiters. He served in this capacity until 1992 when he assumed command of the Coast Guard Marianas Section and Marine Safety Office Guam. As commander, he has discharged his duties in such an exemplary manner that his Operations Center staff won the Controller of the Year Award for the entire coast guard in April, 1993. He is currently the Deputy Assistant Commandant for Coast Guard Civil Rights, assuming the position in 1996 after serving as Deputy Commander of the Coast Guard Personnel Command.

Throughout his career, Captain Salas had been awarded 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, in addition to numerous unit and operational awards. Outside of the military, he has served on different occasions as president of the Guam Society of America in Washington, D.C. He has also been appointed Honorary Ambassador-at-Large for the island by the governor of Guam.

Captain Salas is married to May Camacho Sanchez Salas, formerly from the village of Barrigada. They have four children. The eldest, LTJG Matthew Salas, followed in his father's footsteps by graduating from the Coast guard Academy in 1996.

Captain Salas' distinguished military career is a great source of pride for the people of Guam. I congratulate him on his outstanding achievements. Together with the people of Guam, I join his family in proudly celebrating his great accomplishments. I hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

INDIA CELEBRATES NUKES AND
DEMONSTRATES INTOLERANCE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, while our attention has been grabbed by Kosovo and China, the situation in India has dropped off our radar screen. While we weren't looking, India has been very busy.

The Indian election campaign began with the ruling party celebrating the anniversary of its nuclear weapons tests last year. These weapons were built out of India's development

budget, as the people's health and education continue to decline and the population outside of the Brahmin caste lives in abject poverty.

Meanwhile, the Indian Defense Minister held a meeting looking to find ways to "stop the U.S.," which he called "vulgarly arrogant." Remember that we provide millions of dollars each year to help India pay its bills. How "vulgarly arrogant." of us! Other countries whose representatives attended this meeting included Serbia, China, Cuba, Russia, Libya, and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about a country in which there is little respect for religious freedom. On May 20, the government placed the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Bhai Ranjit Singh, under house arrest. Since Christmas, there has been a wave of violence against Christians. A missionary has been burned to death along with his two young sons, nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, and Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools have been burned to the ground by allies of the Indian government.

As if all that weren't enough, we have received word that Indian intelligence officers interrogated a journalist named Sikhbir Singh Osan for 45 minutes. For him to have been grilled and harassed by police would have been bad enough, but he was harassed by intelligence officers after he returned from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K., where he covered the recent Sikh 300th anniversary marches and gave a speech on the persecution of Christians.

The government of India is intolerant and anti-American. They do not allow freedom of religion or, apparently, of the press. I am proud to have joined several of my colleagues of both parties in co-sponsoring a resolution that calls for a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the question of independence. Freedom is America's mission. By taking steps against the anti-American government of India, we can help promote and extend the blessings of liberty to another corner of the world. We must get started.

DESIGNATION OF EL CAMINO
REAL DE LOS TEJAS AS A NA-
TIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am privileged to introduce legislation that would designate the Camino Real de los Tejas as a National Historic Trail. This camino real, or royal highway, forged the way for the early development of Texas into a Spanish colony, an independent Republic, and a state in the United States. As the first great highway into Texas, this camino real opened the door to trade and cultural exchange which continues to impact our lives today.

The State of Texas recognized the critical importance of these royal highways in 1929 when the state legislature designated portions of El Camino Real de los Tejas, later known as the Old San Antonio Road, as one of Texas historic trails. State Highway 21 marks the trail's pathway in many parts of the state

as do state historical markers. Designation as a National Historic Trail would greatly enhance the resources available for trail preservation and public education of its unique and important history.

The National Park Service completed its feasibility study in July 1998 pursuant to PL 103-145. The study concluded that the proposed trail met all applicable criteria in the National Trails System Act (PL 90-543). Last Congress, the Senate passed similar legislation, the Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act of 1998 (S. 2276). The House did not consider this bill nor a companion bill which I introduced in the House (HR 4724).

The bill I am introducing today contains a number of important changes from last year's version. In an effort to clarify the intent of the legislation and to respond to concerns raised during the bill's consideration last Congress, I have worked with the National Park Service to add language addressing the concerns of private property owners. The bill now states unambiguously that no land or interest in land can be acquired by the federal government without the willing consent of the owner, that the federal government has no authority to condemn or appropriate land for the trail, that the trail will not be established on the ground unless a private property owner voluntarily requests to participate, and that designating the trail does not confer any additional authority to apply other, non-trail federal laws. These provisions reflect my desire to assuage any concerns that a national historic trail in Texas would negatively impact private property owners. In fact, the experience of the other existing national historic trails suggests just the opposite—private property owners can and do benefit from participating in the trail program, but only if they want to do so.

The Camino Real de los Tejas as defined in this legislation collectively represents a series of roads and trails extending for more than 1,000 miles from Mexico City through Saltillo and Monclova in Mexico to Guerrero and Laredo along the Rio Grande, converging in San Antonio, the provincial capital of Texas from 1772 to 1821, and then heading north and east to Los Adeas, the earlier provincial capital of Texas from 1721 through 1772, now located in Louisiana. Beginning as Indian trails from the earliest days of human activity in the Americas, the trails developed under the Spanish as routes of exploration, missionary work and colonization. The earliest Spanish route stems back to the travels of Alonso de León in 1689 and Terán de los Ríos in 1691. During the next 150 years, explorers, traders, ranchers, armies and missionaries blazed a series of trails through South Texas to San Antonio and from San Antonio through East Texas and Louisiana. Immigration, from both the east and south, traveled along this transportation system.

These trails gained different names over time. In South Texas, beginning at the Presidio del Rio Grande and ending in San Antonio, we find the Lower Presidio Road, or El Camino de en Medio; the Camino Pita; and the Upper Presidio Road. A separate Laredo Road linked Laredo to San Antonio and the Camino Real system. Two major arteries extended northeastward from San Antonio: the

Camino de los Tejas along the Balcones Escarpment; and the Camino Arriba through the Post Oak Savannah. Both of these routes converged again in Nacogdoches, Texas.

All told, various portions of the Camino Real de los Tejas now in the United States extend for some 550 miles and together make up approximately 2,600 miles in combined length. They served as critical trade routes, post roads, cattle trails, and military highways and opened Texas to the world.

The Camino Real de los Tejas linked the Spanish in Mexico to their new outposts in East Texas in the late 17th and early 18th Centuries. These early settlements provided a Spanish presence to counter early French exploration of Texas. The Mission San Antonio de Valero, later known as the Alamo, was established along the Camino real route and later served as a focal point in the military battle for Texas independence. Critical supplies made their way to the American Colonies during the War of Independence via the Camino Real de los Tejas trail system. The Camino Real de los Tejas road system provided the main transportation route for Mexican and Texan armies during the Texas Revolution and continued to play a major role in future military actions.

Recognizing the significance of the Camino Real de los Tejas and its historical importance grounds us for the future and provides opportunities for today. Trail designation will help enhance tourism and economic development in the many cities and towns along the trail system. Local museums and historical sites will be given new opportunities for growth. The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, an important and beautiful network of missions in the San Antonio area, can provide a base of operations for trail activities. A number of public roads, state parks and national forests can provide public access to this important piece of our history. As we strive to boost international trade, develop our local communities, and enhance educational opportunities, we only have to look to El Camino Real de los Tejas for inspiration.

COMMEMORATING THE PECOS
RODEO

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Pecos, Texas, a community which hosts the world renowned rodeo every 4th of July week. Folks from all across Texas and other states flock to Pecos for this annual event.

In the mid 1800's in cow towns across the state of Texas, a new sport, the Rodeo was created. By 1883, a little town in West Texas, Pecos, launched the first full fledged rodeo. This annual event occurs during the week of our celebration for independence, July 4th.

Tomorrow, July 1, 1999, the tradition continues as the annual Pecos Rodeo begins with several fun filled activities and events. The first Pecos rodeo was held near the town courthouse. What used to be the old rodeo